

EXHIBIT 11

EXPERT REPORT, ANNA LEMBKE, M.D.

March 25, 2019

MDL No. 2804

Relating to Case Nos. 17-OP-45004 and 18-OP-45090

prescription was continued (30.5%) than those in which an opioid was newly prescribed (22.7%).²⁶

- v. As reported in an article I co-authored in 2016, more than one-third of Part D Medicare enrollees fill at least one opioid prescription in any given year. Part D covers 68% of the roughly 55 million people on Medicare.²⁷ As such, more than 10 million Part D Medicare enrollees are exposed to a prescription opioid in any given year, thus becoming vulnerable to the adverse effects of opioids, including but not limited to addiction. Medicare represents just one patient population, suggesting that many millions of patient consumers in this country have been exposed to the risks of prescription opioids in recent decades, both within and outside the Medicare-eligible populations. As discussed later in this report, much of that exposure resulted from aggressive marketing that overstated benefits and downplayed risks of chronic exposure to prescription opioids.
- c. As reported in another article I co-authored in 2016, increased opioid prescribing is distributed across different types of prescribers, relatively indifferent to individual physicians, specialty or region.²⁸ In other words, opioid overprescribing is not the result of a small subset of so-called ‘pill mill’ doctors, although such doctors do exist, but rather has been driven by a wholesale shift in medical practice. All doctors across diverse medical specialties are prescribing more opioids.
 - i. By specialty, pain doctors prescribe more opioids than doctors in any other specialties. However, by volume, family medicine and internal medicine doctors account for the most opioids, simply because there are more of them.²⁹
 - ii. But the salient finding was that opioid prescribing is not driven by a minority of prolific prescribers.³⁰
- d. Although national average opioid prescribing has plateaued or decreased since its peak in 2012, there are still many cities, counties, and states across the nation where opioid prescribing continues to be high, and overall opioid prescribing in the US remains at levels far exceeding pre-1990 rates.

²⁶ Sherry TB, Sabety A, Maestas N. Documented Pain Diagnoses in Adults Prescribed Opioids: Results From the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2006–2015. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169(12):892-894, at p. 892.

²⁷ Lembke *et al.*, “Use of Opioid Agonist Therapy”, fn. 5, above, at pp. 990-991.

²⁸ Chen *et al.*, “Distribution of Opioids”, fn 4, above, at p. E2.

²⁹ *Id.* at pp. E1-E2.

³⁰ *Id.* at p. E2.

Lembke Report

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following: prevent new cases of addiction, dependence, and other related harms (primary prevention), limit progression of harm (secondary prevention), and treat existing cases (treatment). In a *New England Journal of Medicine* commentary regarding the CDC Opioid-Prescribing Guideline, CDC physicians Thomas Frieden and Debra Houry stated, “We know of no other medication routinely used for a nonfatal condition that kills patients so frequently.”³⁷⁹

Dated: March 25, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Lembke', written over a horizontal line.

Anna Lembke, M.D.

³⁷⁹ Frieden TR, Houry D. Reducing the Risks of Relief — The CDC Opioid-Prescribing Guideline. *N Engl J Med*. 2016. doi:10.1056/nejmp1515917, at p. 1503.